

to be stable, growing, increasingly healthy countries from which we not only buy but to which we sell, countries that together we can build a stable future. Instead of have a part of the world in the 20th century that called Americans there to fight and die in three wars, better to be a part of the world that participates in—[inaudible]—three new stages of the global economic revolution in the 21st century. We still have a lot of challenges out there.

Technology is not an unmixed blessing. It bothers me some of the things little kids can see on the Internet at night. It bothers me that people who know how to do it can figure out how to build bombs and have access to dangerous weapons just by having the technological availability of it. There are a lot of things that bother us about it. There are troubling questions of our competitive laws and how they should apply to new technologies that have to be worked out. That's why we all have to be committed to the idea that we can continuously improve. Or in the language that was quoted from David Kearns, that our endeavor is a journey without an end. That's frustrating to some people; they always want to get there. But, you know, the older I get, the more I like the journey. [Laughter]

So I thank you. I thank you for making America a better place. I thank you for your enthusiasm and for being a model for other American workplaces. And I ask you, when you go home, to share with your friends and neighbors who may not work with you the idea that this country is like where you work. America is still around after 220 years because we have a Constitution which said, if you want the country to always get better, you have to make it possible for people to always get better. And you have to give them the freedom to fail and mess up. I mean, that's what the Bill of Rights is all about. That's what the Constitution is all about, limiting the powers of Government and mandating, in effect, partnerships. That's what the flexibility of the Constitution is all about, so we could change over time to adapt to new

circumstances without giving up our values. That's the kind of country you live in.

And if it's going to be everything it ought to be in the 21st century, it has to do as a nation what you're trying to do every day at work. And you have to ask yourself, do you think America is on a journey without an end; do you think we can always get better. I think the answer, because of your example and that of millions of others, is an unequivocal yes.

Thank you very much, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:54 a.m. at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige's sister, Letitia Baldrige, brother, Robert Baldrige, and sister-in-law, Nancy; Harry Hertz, national quality program director, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Earnest Deavenport, president, Malcolm Baldrige Award Foundation; Mayor Richard Daley of Chicago, IL; and David T. Kearns, retired chairman and chief executive officer, Xerox Corp.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Chemical Weapons Convention

December 19, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, I hereby certify that:

In connection with Condition (3), Establishment of an Internal Oversight Office, the internal audit office of the Preparatory Commission was expanded into the Office of Internal Oversight of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons upon the establishment of the Organization.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Letter to Congressional Leaders
Transmitting a Report on the Lapse
of the Export Administration Act of
1979**

December 19, 1997

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

Sincerely,

William J. Clinton

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Albert Gore, Jr., President of the Senate.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 15

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton hosted a reception for members of the press in the Diplomatic Reception Room.

The President announced his intention to appoint George R. Ariyoshi, Curtis H. Barnette, Robert J. Eaton, George Fisher, D. George Harris, Dean R. Kleckner, J. Bruce Llewellyn, Lewis Platt, and Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner as members of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

December 16

The President announced the recess appointments of Mozelle W. Thompson and

Orson Swindle as Commissioners of the Federal Trade Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Richard W. Fisher as Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador.

The President announced the recess appointment of Nancy E. Soderberg as Alternate U.S. Representative for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador, and as U.S. Alternate Representative to the sessions of the U.N. General Assembly.

The President announced the recess appointment of Paul M. Igasaki to serve as a Commissioner and Vice Chair on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The President announced the recess appointment of Kevin Emmanuel Marchman as Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

December 17

In the afternoon, the President met with Senator Arlen Specter in the Oval Office, concerning the Senator's upcoming visit to the Middle East.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with a group of family farmers in the Cabinet Room, concerning new USDA efforts to improve civil rights and assist small farmers.

The President announced his intention to appoint Dr. Harold P. Freeman to serve as member and Chair of the President's Cancer Panel.

The President announced the appointment of John M. Deutch, Robert L. Gallucci, Dave McCurdy, and Daniel Poneman to the Commission To Assess the Organization of the Federal Government To Combat the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The President declared a major disaster in Guam and ordered Federal aid to supplement territory and local recovery efforts in the area struck by Typhoon Paka and associated torrential rains, high winds, high surf, and tidal surges on December 16 and continuing.